

Appl. No. 09/664,533
Amdt. Dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of subjecting a material in a liquid to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the liquid in a vessel having a length in a first direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the liquid to the explosive forces in the vessel, the explosive forces being caused by introducing energy to the liquid by discharging a capacitor through a capacitor discharge electrode located within the liquid; and

removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces,

wherein the vessel is a pipe.

Claims 2-5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2-5, wherein the interior surface of the vessel-bottom is semi-cylindrical.

Claims 7-16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the energy is supplied to the capacitor discharge electrode by a capacitor discharge machine attached to the capacitor discharge electrode.

Claims 18-24. (cancelled)

Claim 25. (previously presented) A method of subjecting a fibrous material in a liquid to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the liquid in a vessel having a length in a first direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the liquid to the explosive forces in the vessel; and removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces, wherein the interior cross sectional shape is such that the material is subjected to a portion of the explosive forces reflecting off of an interior surface of the lower portion of the vessel.

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Claim 26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the material is a wood product.

Claim 27. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the liquid is water.

Claim 28. (previously presented) A method of subjecting a material in water to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the water in a vessel having a length in a first direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the water to the explosive forces in the vessel; and removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces,

wherein the interior cross sectional shape is such that the material is subjected to a portion of the explosive forces reflecting off of an interior surface of the lower portion of the vessel, and

the water contains Na₂S.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the material is metal.

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Claim 30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the material is an impurity in the water.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the material is one of bacteria and a pathogen.

Claim 32. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the material is A method of subjecting a fibrous material in a liquid to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the liquid in a vessel having a length in a first direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the liquid to the explosive forces in the vessel, the explosive forces being caused by introducing energy to the liquid by discharging a capacitor through a capacitor discharge electrode located within the liquid; and

removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces.

Claim 33. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, A method of subjecting a material in a liquid to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the liquid in a vessel having a length in a first

direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the liquid to the explosive forces in the vessel, the explosive forces being caused by introducing energy to the liquid by discharging a capacitor through a capacitor discharge electrode located within the liquid; and

removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces,

wherein the material is a wood product.

Claim 34. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, A method of subjecting a material in a liquid to explosive forces, comprising:

containing the material and the liquid in a vessel having a length in a first direction and a width in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the length being greater than the width, the vessel having a lower portion having an interior cross sectional shape perpendicular to the first direction;

subjecting the material and the liquid to the explosive forces in the vessel, the explosive forces being caused by introducing energy to the liquid by discharging a capacitor through a capacitor discharge electrode located within the liquid; and

removing the material from the vessel after being subjected to the explosive forces,

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wherein the liquid contains Na_2S , and
the liquid is water.

Claim 35. (cancelled)